**Poverty in the tribal and backward areas of Maharashtra**

*340. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

*(a)* whether it is a fact that extreme poverty exists in the tribal ami backward areas of Maharashtra and other parts of the country, where people do not get even two square meals a day;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken and propose to ta'te to remove poverty from tribal and backward areas of Maharashtra and other parts of the country within a timeframe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THF MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION fSHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR); (a) and (b) The latest estimates of percentage of people below poverty line are indicated below:—

Percentage of Population Below Pove rty Line (1993-94)

| | Mecar-shtra | | | All India | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Rurgl | Urban | To vl | Rer il | Urban | Total |
| Tribal Population | 53.58 | 61.06 | * | 5194 | 4114 | * |
| Total Population | 37.93 | 35.15 | 36.86 | 37.27 | 32.36 | 35.97 |

* Combined figures not computed due to constraints of data.

The poverty ratios for tribal popu-lation in ihe country arc higher than the general poverty ratios both Cni the St;;te of Maharashtra and All-India.

(c> The centrally scheme? for poverty eradication implemented in the country comprise of Integrated Rural Development Programme ,IROP> Jawahar R' zgar YoJara (JRY). Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Nehru Ri :r Yojana fNRY), the Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SI MEi and Urban Wage Employment (SUWH). the Scheme of Housini and Shelter Upgradation (SHASIU and PTime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme tPMIUPEPt. Thr.se Schemes provide for specific coverage of Scheduled Tribcv

The Centrally Sponsored Schemes lor poverty eradication would bf continned in the Ninth Five Year Plan. They would, however, be redesigned and reoriented to make them more effective instruments of poverty alleviation. In order to improve the efficacy of the schemes, the emr>hasis would be on higher levels of investment per family, encouragement ID activities under family credit rl.m and promotion of group protects.

In addition to the above programmes, a number of scheme* exclusivrlv for the educational and economic development of the Scheduled Tribes are implemented either at Centrally Sponsored or Central Sector Schemes under the umbrella of Tribal Sub Plan